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EXCUSES

It was time to go into the land of promise. God told Moses to select leaders from each of the twelve tribes to go in and search out the land that he had “given to them.”

Twelve went in and two came back with a good report. The other ten leaders could not see beyond the problems. They saw giants. They saw the enemies, and they brought back an evil report.

God never told them there wouldn't be problems, but since he also said that he had given them the land they needed only be mindful that he knew more than they did. Their evil report caused them to die in the wilderness. Not only that, the ones of faith that had not given an evil report also had to wait forty years before they went into the promised land. How sad!!

How often do we act like those ten leaders? God gives us an assignment, and we know that he is more than able, but balk at it with excuses. Some of those excuses are just plain fear and a lack of faith. Not enough money. Not the right clothes. Not any support from family. I am too old. I am too young. I need to go to Bible College and learn more first. On and on we make excuses. Our excuses may even keep others from completing their assignment. That, in itself, must displease God!

It cost those ten leaders their lives because they did not trust God. They never saw the promised land.

What about us? What is our excuse? We have the word of God that is full of promises that we only need to act on. The ten leaders only heard the promise from Moses, God's mouthpiece. They did not trust God and they did not trust Moses.

We must be obedient to do what God calls us to do even if it is a small assignment. It may prick your pride because you want a big assignment, so you put off the small one, or you fear you cannot complete a large assignment and give all kinds of excuses. Then there is the fear of failure that keeps us from doing what we should.

Can you imagine a world full of faith living Christians that did what God said immediately without any fear? We could take the world for Jesus. Unfortunately, most will make up excuses as to why they cannot. I wonder if God will be satisfied with our excuses. He certainly was not satisfied with the ten. Something to think about, right?